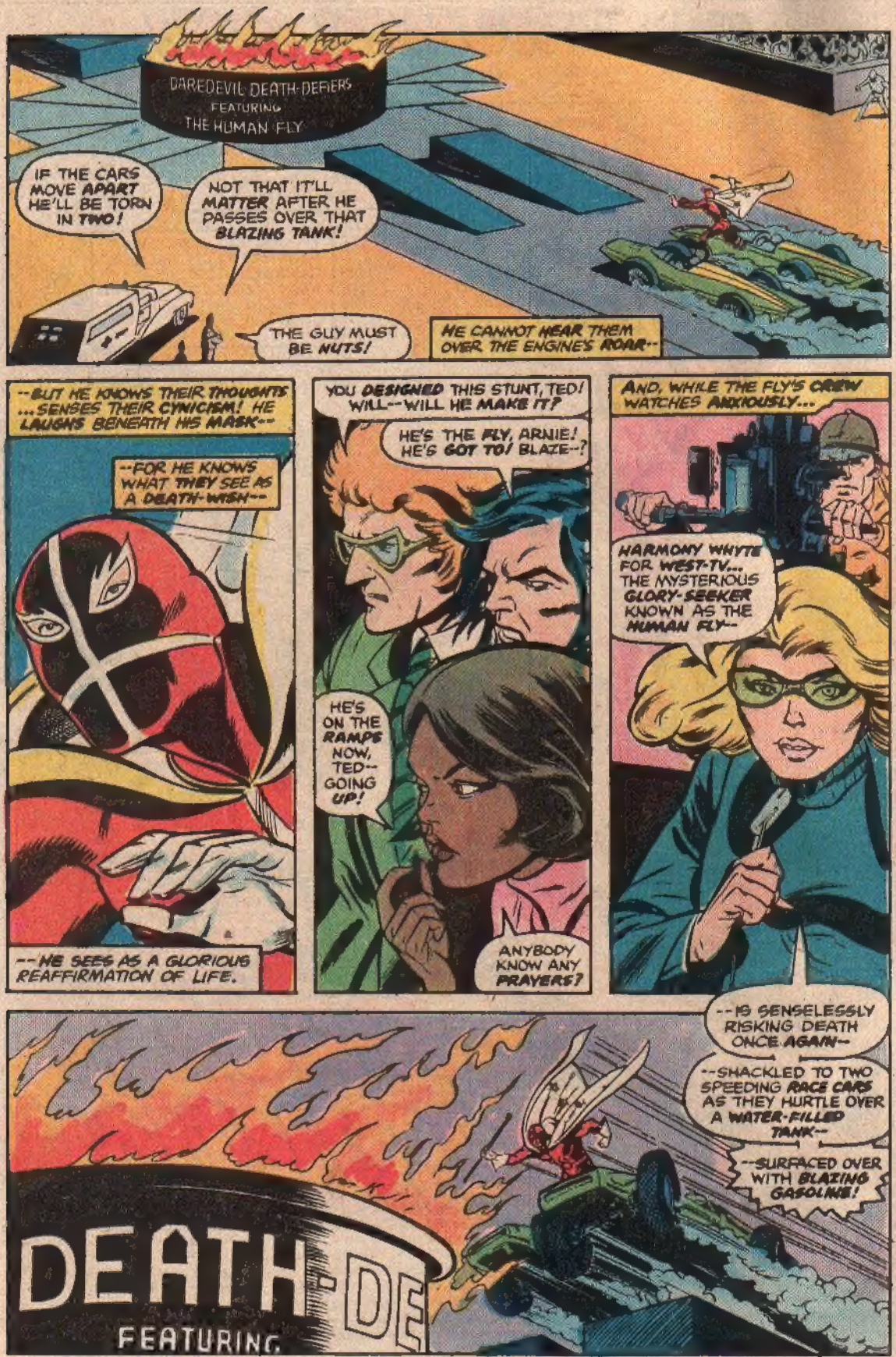
THE HUMAN FLY™
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
30¢
2
OCT
02750
THE WILDEST SUPER-HERO EVER--BECAUSE HE'S REAL!
THE HUMAN FLY™
©1977 MARVEL COMICS GROUP
INFANTINO
MILGROM
THE HUMAN FLY TEAMS WITH GHOST RIDER IN A DEATH DUEL ON WHEELS!
RACE TO

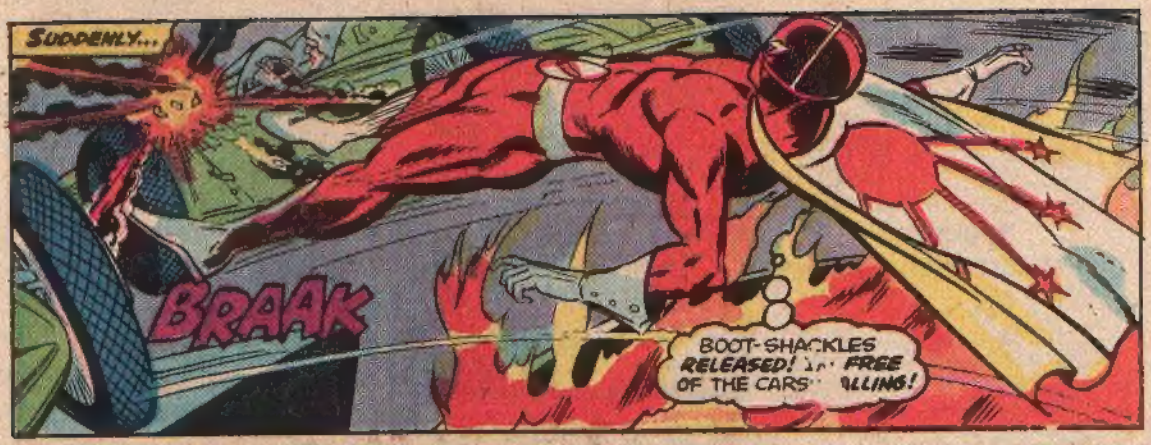
STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE HUMAN FLY!

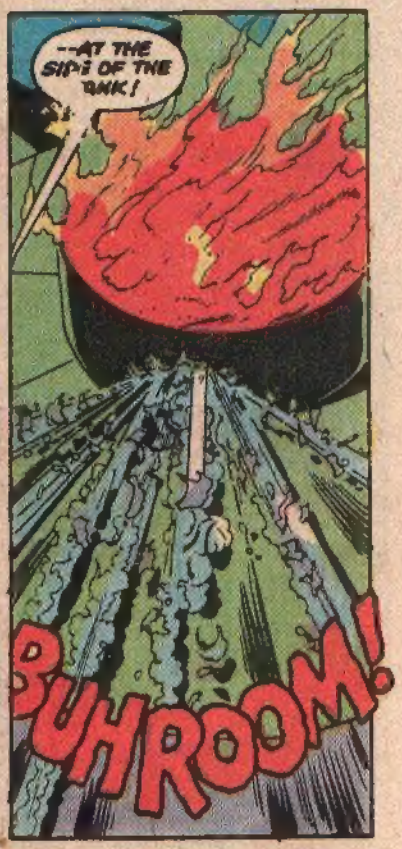
BILL MANTLO WRITER ★ CARMINE INFANTINO ARTIST ★ DAN GREEN INKER ★ I. WATANABE, LETTERER COLORIST ★ ARCHIE GOODWIN EDITOR

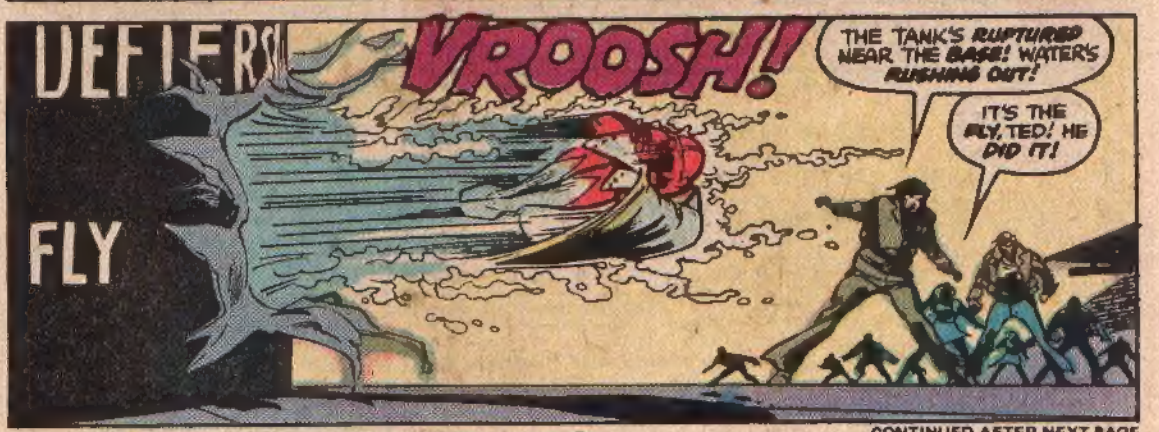
THE FIERCE NEVADA SUN BLAZES DOWN, BAKING THE TARMAC BENEATH TORTURED TIRES!
THE CROWD IS WILD, BUT WHETHER FROM THE HEAT OR THE SPECTACLE OF A SHACKLED FELLOW-HUMAN OFFERING HIMSELF TO DEATH, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY!
THE CAPED, CRIMSON FIGURE STANDS BALANCED, BATON IN HAND, IGNORING BOTH CROWD AND SUN! THERE IS NO UNCERTAINTY IN HIS STANCE!
HE IS THE HUMAN FLY... RIDING TWIN FURIES ON A DEATH-DEFYING--
RACE TO DESTRUCTION!

THE HUMAN FLY™ is published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Office of Publication: 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10022. Published monthly. Copyright ©1977 HUMAN FLY SPECTACULARS, LTD. All rights reserved. Copyright © 1977 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, A Division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Vol. 1, No. 2, October, 1977 issue. Price 30¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate: $4.00 for 12 issues. Canada, $5.00. Foreign, $6.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers, and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition.


DAREDEVIL DEATH-DEFIERS
FEATURING
THE HUMAN FLY
IF THE CARS MOVE APART HE'LL BE TORN IN TWO!
NOT THAT IT'LL MATTER AFTER HE PASSES OVER THAT BLAZING TANK!
THE GUY MUST BE NUTS!
HE CANNOT HEAR THEM OVER THE ENGINES ROAR--
--BUT HE KNOWS THEIR THOUGHTS ...SENSES THEIR CYNICISM! HE LAUGHS BENEATH HIS MASK--
--FOR HE KNOWS WHAT THEY SEE AS A DEATH-WISH--
--HE SEES AS A GLORIOUS REAFFIRMATION OF LIFE.
YOU DESIGNED THIS STUNT, TED! WILL--WILL HE MAKE IT?
HE'S THE FLY, ARNIE! HE'S GOT TO! BLAZE--?
HE'S ON THE RAMPS NOW, TED--GOING UP!
ANYBODY KNOW ANY PRAYERS?
AND, WHILE THE FLY'S CREW WATCHES ANXIOUSLY...
HARMONY WHYTE FOR WEST-TV... THE MYSTERIOUS GLORY-SEEKER KNOWN AS THE HUMAN FLY--
--IS SENSELESSLY RISKING DEATH ONCE AGAIN--
--SHACKLED TO TWO SPEEDING RACE CARS AS THEY HURTLE OVER A WATER-FILLED TANK--
--SURFACED OVER WITH BLAZING GASOLINE!
DEATH-DE
FEATURING



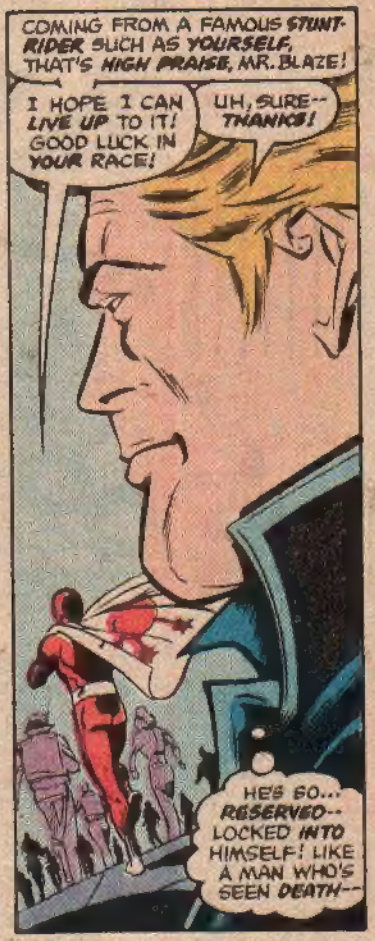


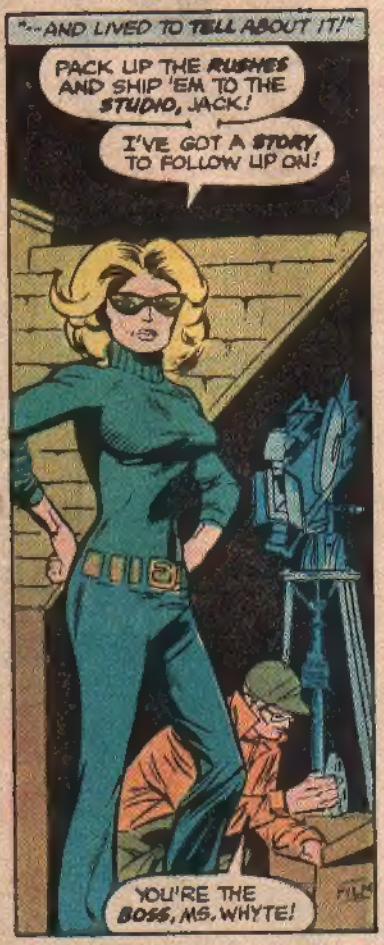


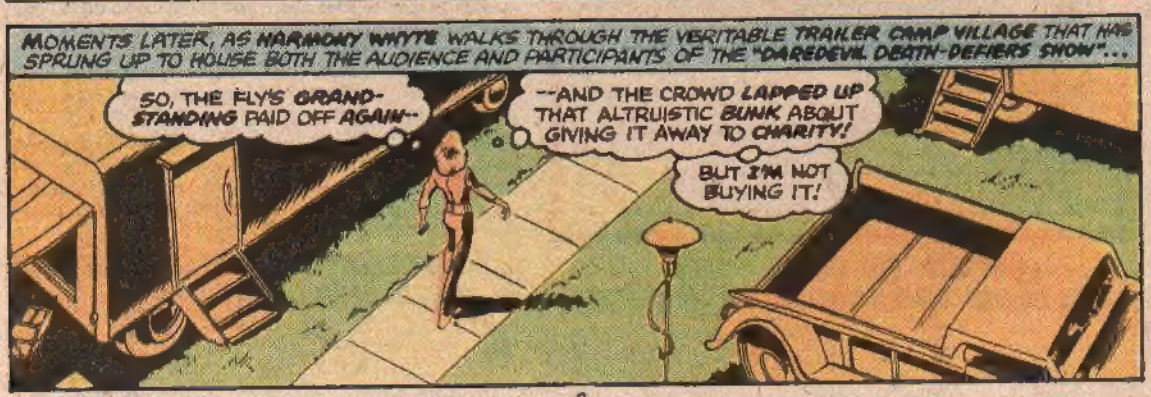
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

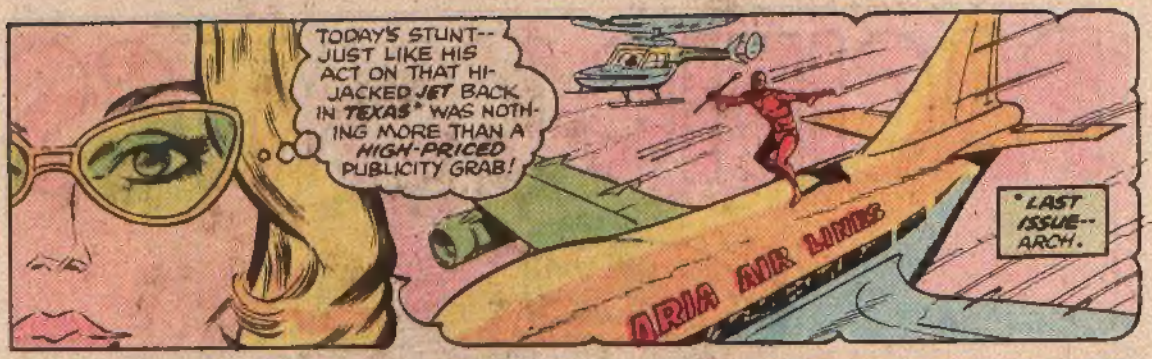
WE DID IT, BLAZE! YOU, TED, ARNIE AND I!
WE'RE A TEAM, REMEMBER?
SURE--BUT YOU TAKE ALL THE RISKS!
RISKS THAT JUST EARNED YE A COOL FIVE GRAND, MATE!
AN' CYRUS T. BARKER'S AMAZED T'SAY IT!

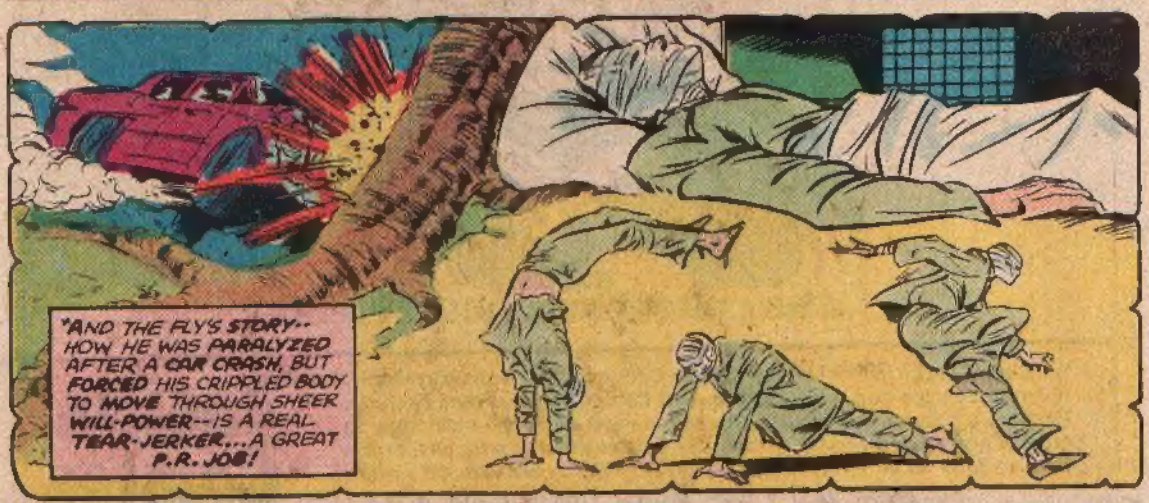
ARNIE--WORK OUT THE MONEY WITH MR. BARKER! WE TAKE ONLY OUR EXPENSES, THE REST GOES TO CHARITY!
I'D LIKE TO SHAKE YOUR HAND, FELLA! THE NAME'S JOHNNY BLAZE--* AND THAT WAS ONE OF THE FINEST STUNTS I'VE EVER SEEN!
*WHO ALL TRUE MARVELITIES ALSO KNOW AS THE GHOST RIDER, NATCH--ARCHIE.

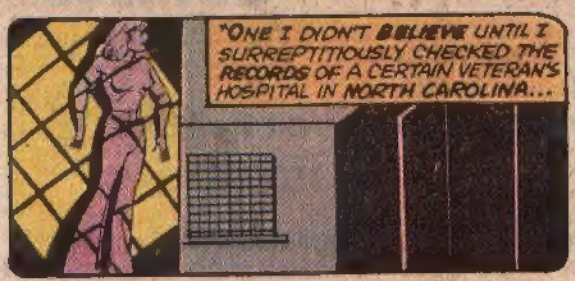

COMING FROM A FAMOUS STUNT-RIDER SUCH AS YOURSELF, THAT'S HIGH PRAISE, MR. BLAZE!
I HOPE I CAN LIVE UP TO IT! GOOD LUCK IN YOUR RACE!
UH, SURE--THANKS!
HE'S SO... RESERVED--LOCKED INTO HIMSELF! LIKE A MAN WHO'S SEEN DEATH--

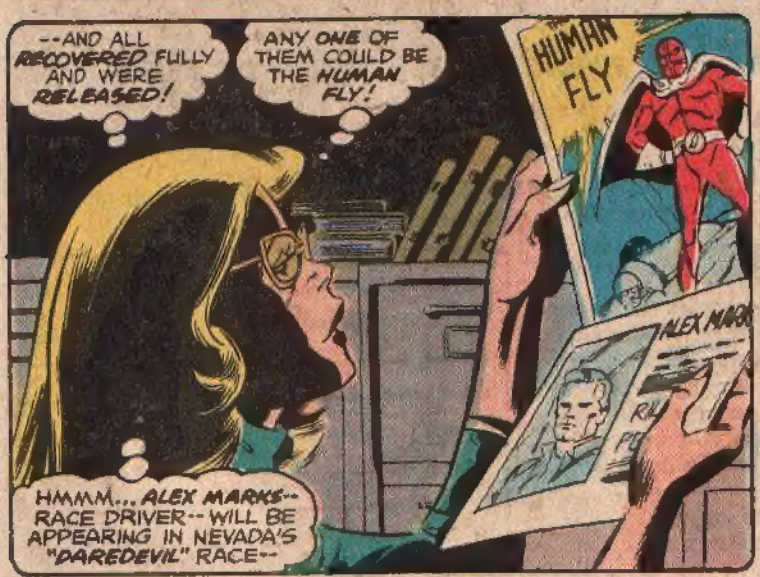

"--AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT!"
PACK UP THE RUSHES AND SHIP 'EM TO THE STUDIO, JACK!
I'VE GOT A STORY TO FOLLOW UP ON!
YOU'RE THE BOSS, MS. WHYTE!


MOMENTS LATER, AS HARMONY WHYTE WALKS THROUGH THE VERITABLE TRAILER CAMP VILLAGE THAT HAS SPRUNG UP TO HOUSE BOTH THE AUDIENCE AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE "DAREDEVIL DEATH-DEFIERS SHOW"...
SO, THE FLY'S GRAND-STANDING PAID OFF AGAIN--
--AND THE CROWD LAPPED UP THAT ALTRUISTIC BUNK ABOUT GIVING IT AWAY TO CHARITY!
BUT I'M NOT BUYING IT!

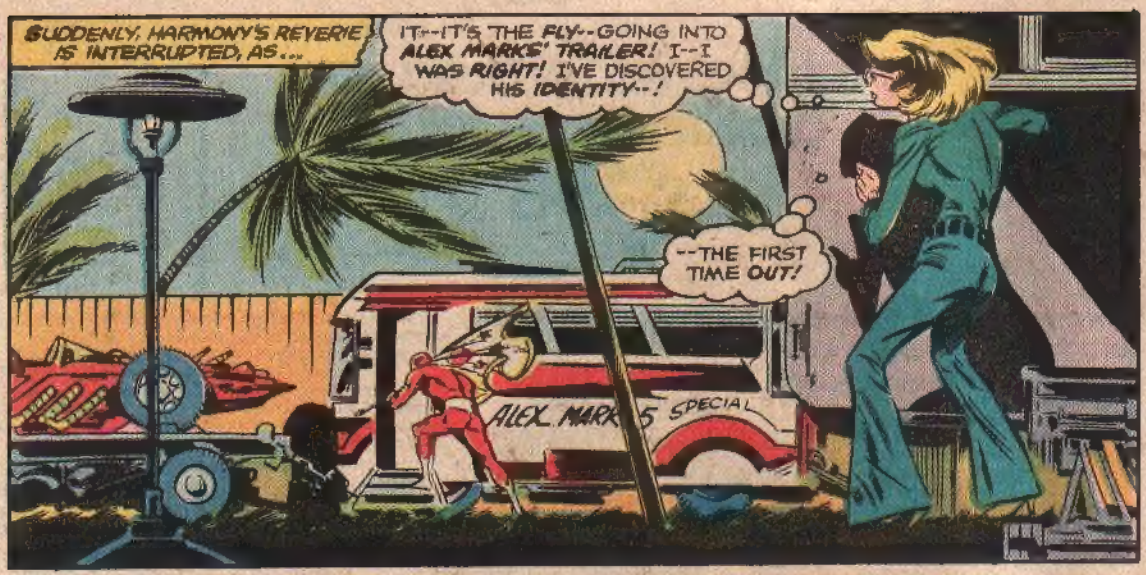

TODAY'S STUNT--JUST LIKE HIS ACT ON THAT HI-JACKED JET BACK IN TEXAS* WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A HIGH-PRICED PUBLICITY GRAB!
ARIA AIR LINES
*LAST ISSUE--ARCH.

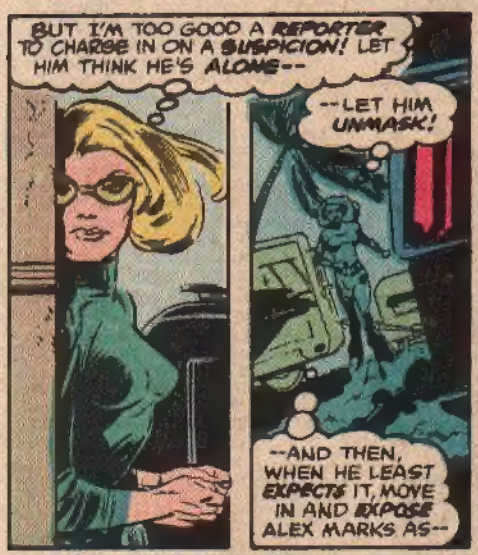

*AND THE FLY'S STORY--HOW HE WAS PARALYZED AFTER A CAR CRASH, BUT FORCED HIS CRIPPLED BODY TO MOVE THROUGH SHEER WILL-POWER--IS A REAL TEAR-JERKER...A GREAT P.R. JOB!

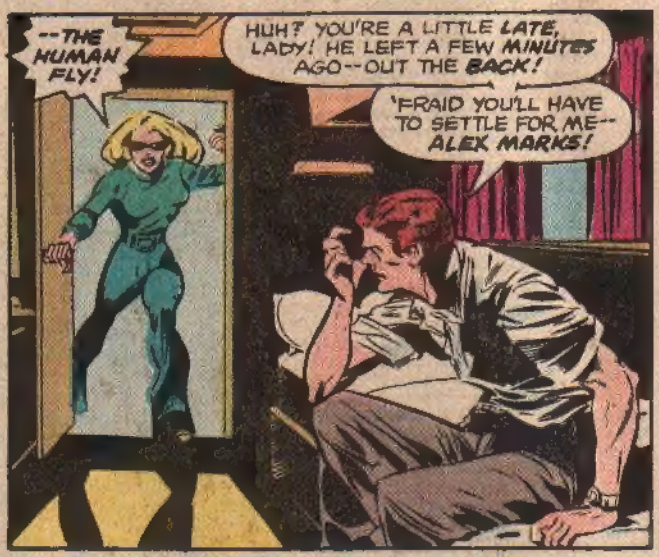


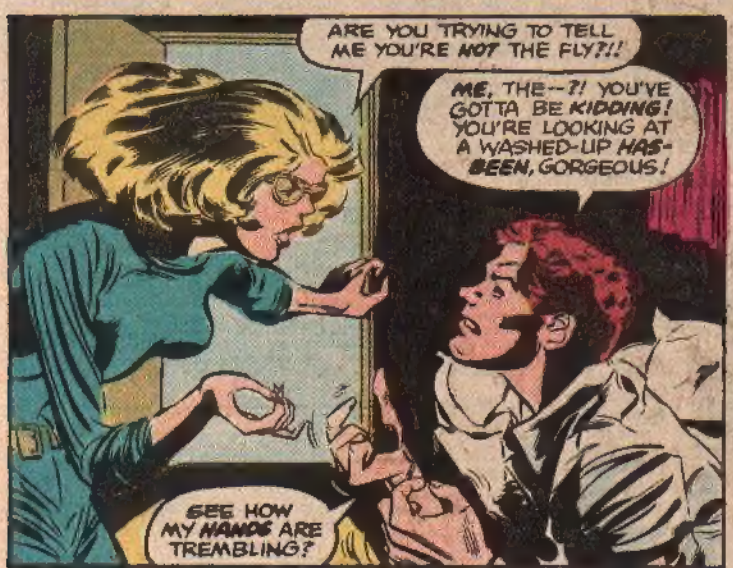

--AND ALL RECOVERED FULLY AND WERE RELEASED!
ANY ONE OF THEM COULD BE THE HUMAN FLY!
THE HUMAN FLY
HMMM... ALEX MARKS--RACE DRIVER--WILL BE APPEARING IN NEVADA'S "DAREDEVIL" RACE--

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

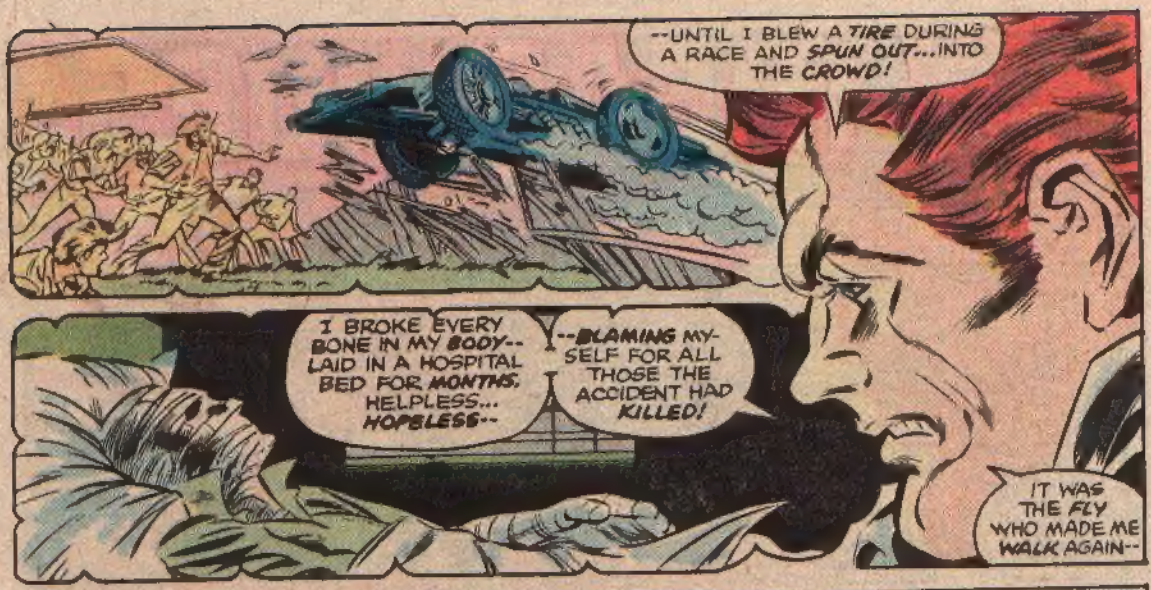

SUDDENLY, HARMONY'S REVERIE IS INTERRUPTED, AS...
IT--IT'S THE FLY--GOING INTO ALEX MARKS' TRAILER! I--I WAS RIGHT! I'VE DISCOVERED HIS IDENTITY--!
--THE FIRST TIME OUT!
ALEX MARK 5 SPECIAL

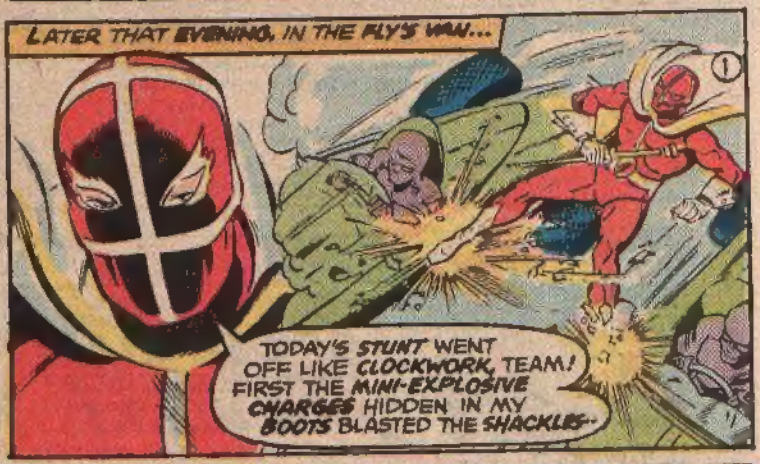

BUT I'M TOO GOOD A REPORTER TO CHARGE IN ON A SUSPICION! LET HIM THINK HE'S ALONE--
--LET HIM UNMASK!
--AND THEN, WHEN HE LEAST EXPECTS IT, MOVE IN AND EXPOSE ALEX MARKS AS--

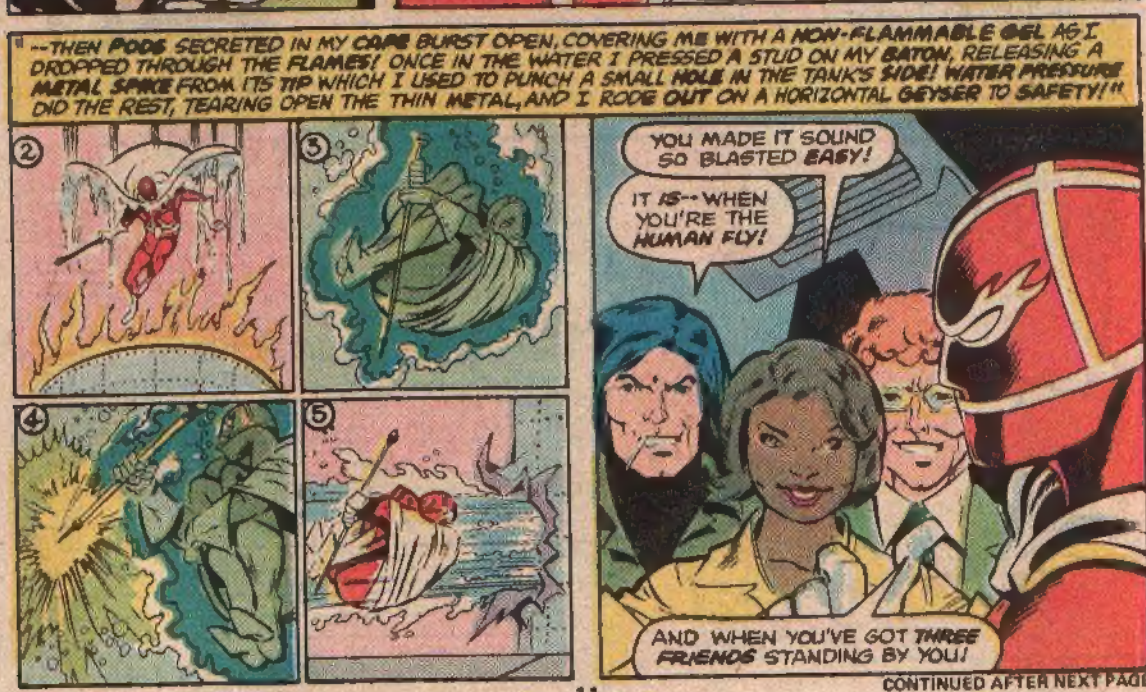

--THE HUMAN FLY!
HUH? YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE, LADY! HE LEFT A FEW MINUTES AGO--OUT THE BACK!
'FRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR ME-- ALEX MARKS!


ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME YOU'RE NOT THE FLY?!!
ME, THE--?! YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING! YOU'RE LOOKING AT A WASHED-UP HAS-BEEN, GORGEOUS!
SEE HOW MY HANDS ARE TREMBLING?

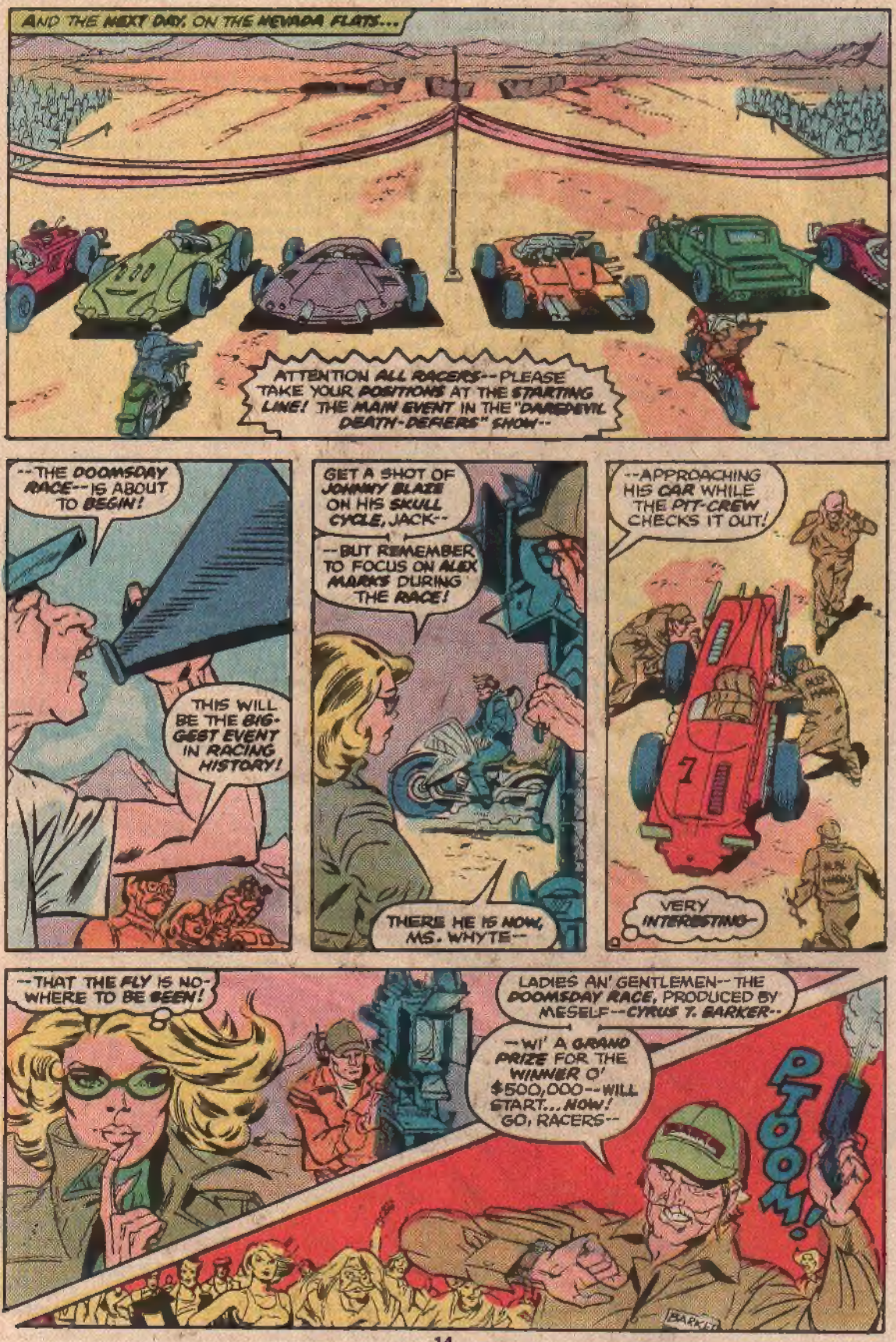
WELL, THOSE SAME HANDS USED TO BE STEADY ENOUGH TO STEER AN INDY RACER AT SPEEDS WELL ABOVE 200 MPH!
I WAS THE BEST FORMULA ONE DRIVER IN THE BUSINESS--

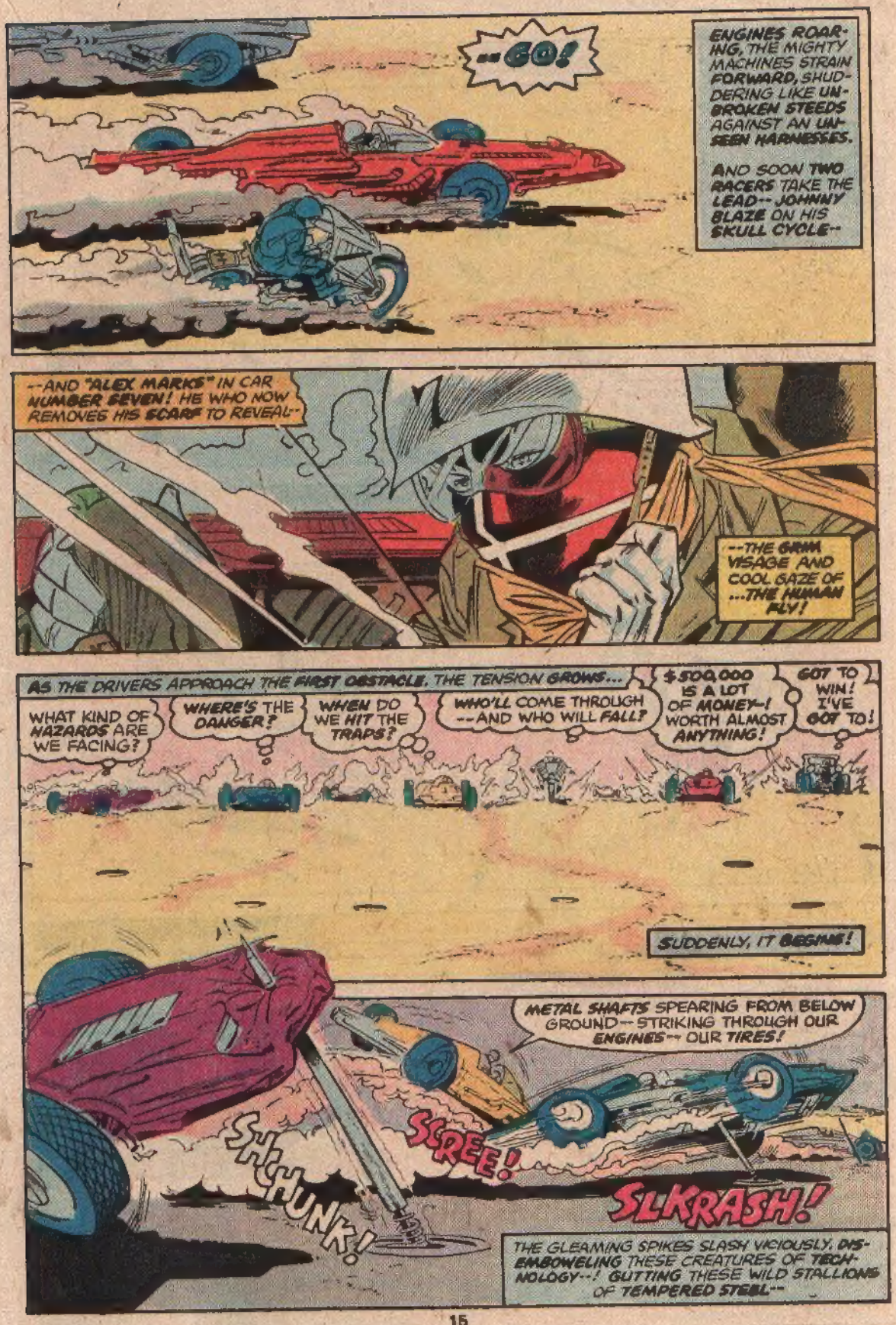

--UNTIL I BLEW A TIRE DURING A RACE AND SPUN OUT...INTO THE CROWD!
I BROKE EVERY BONE IN MY BODY--LAID IN A HOSPITAL BED FOR MONTHS, HELPLESS... HOPELESS--
--BLAMING MYSELF FOR ALL THOSE THE ACCIDENT HAD KILLED!
IT WAS THE FLY WHO MADE ME WALK AGAIN--


LATER THAT EVENING, IN THE FLY'S VAN...
1
TODAY'S STUNT WENT OFF LIKE CLOCKWORK, TEAM! FIRST THE MINI-EXPLOSIVE CHARGES HIDDEN IN MY BOOTS BLASTED THE SHACKLES--

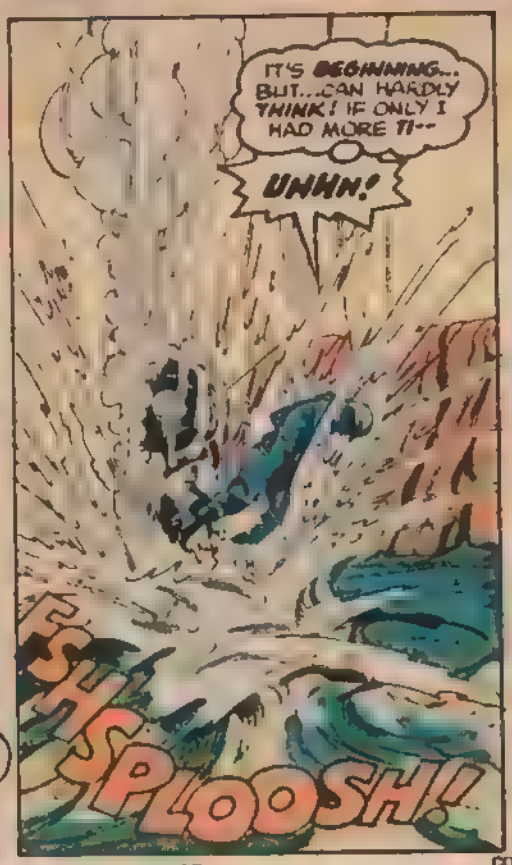

"--THEN PODS SECRETED IN MY CAPE BURST OPEN, COVERING ME WITH A NON-FLAMMABLE GEL AS I DROPPED THROUGH THE FLAMES! ONCE IN THE WATER I PRESSED A STUD ON MY BATON, RELEASING A METAL SPIKE FROM ITS TIP WHICH I USED TO PUNCH A SMALL HOLE IN THE TANK'S SIDE! WATER PRESSURE DID THE REST, TEARING OPEN THE THIN METAL, AND I RODE OUT ON A HORIZONTAL GEYSER TO SAFETY!"
2
3
4
5
YOU MADE IT SOUND SO BLASTED EASY!
IT IS--WHEN YOU'RE THE HUMAN FLY!
AND WHEN YOU'VE GOT THREE FRIENDS STANDING BY YOU!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

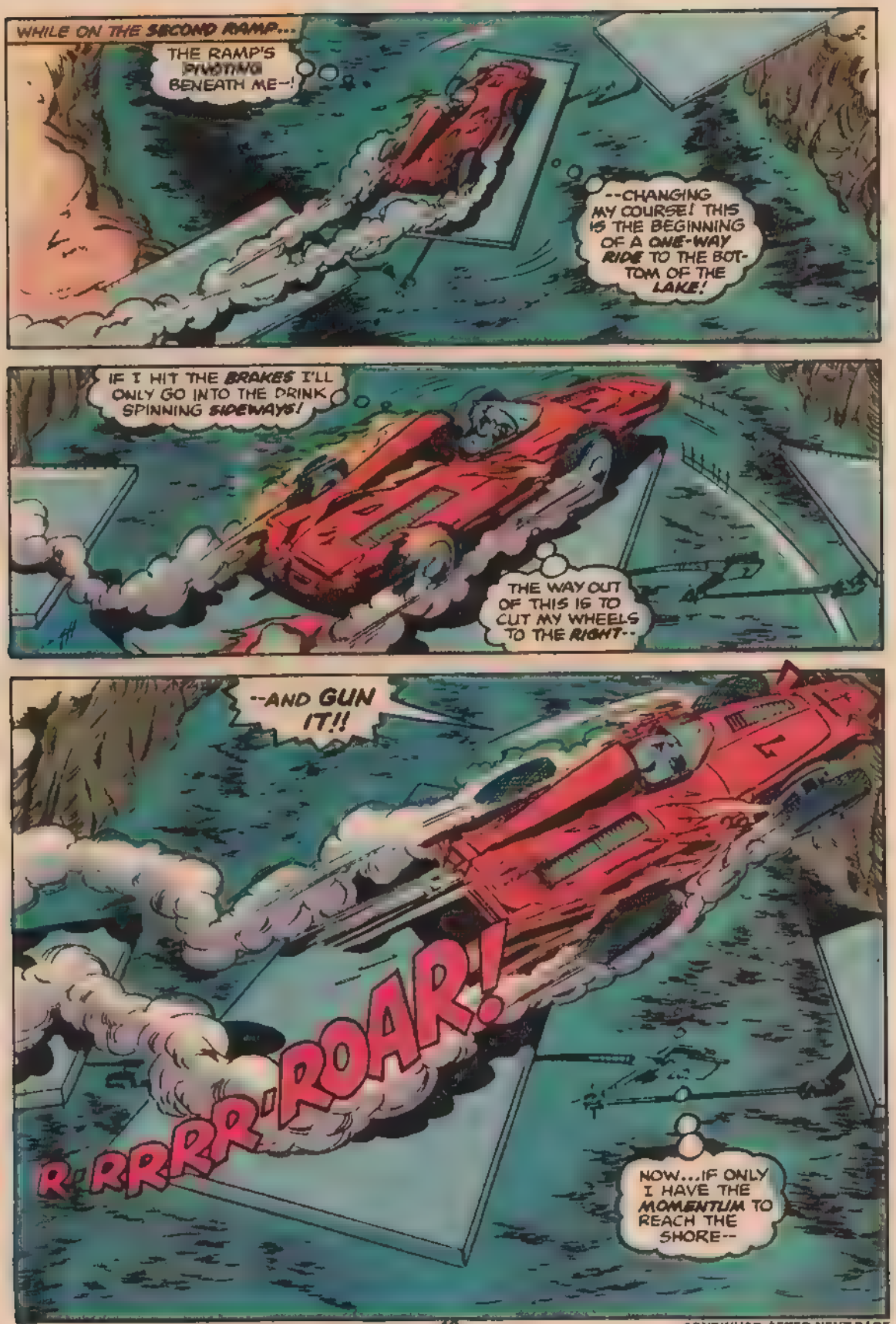

AND THE NEXT DAY, ON THE NEVADA FLATS...
ATTENTION ALL RACERS--PLEASE TAKE YOUR POSITIONS AT THE STARTING LINE! THE MAIN EVENT IN THE "DAREDEVIL DEATH-DEFIERS" SHOW--
--THE DOOMSDAY RACE--IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
THIS WILL BE THE BIGGEST EVENT IN RACING HISTORY!
GET A SHOT OF JOHNNY BLAZE ON HIS SKULL CYCLE, JACK--
--BUT REMEMBER TO FOCUS ON ALEX MARKS DURING THE RACE!
THERE HE IS NOW, MS. WHYTE--
--APPROACHING HIS CAR WHILE THE PIT-CREW CHECKS IT OUT!
VERY INTERESTING--
--THAT THE FLY IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN!
LADIES AN' GENTLEMEN--THE DOOMSDAY RACE, PRODUCED BY MESELF--CYRUS T. BARKER--
--WI' A GRAND PRIZE FOR THE WINNER O' $500,000--WILL START...NOW! GO, RACERS--
PTOOM!
BARKER


--GO!
ENGINES ROARING, THE MIGHTY MACHINES STRAIN FORWARD, SHUDDERING LIKE UNBROKEN STEEDS AGAINST AN UNSEEN HARNESSES.
AND SOON TWO RACERS TAKE THE LEAD-- JOHNNY BLAZE ON HIS SKULL CYCLE--
--AND "ALEX MARKS" IN CAR NUMBER SEVEN! HE WHO NOW REMOVES HIS SCARF TO REVEAL--
--THE GRIM VISAGE AND COOL GAZE OF ...THE HUMAN FLY!
AS THE DRIVERS APPROACH THE FIRST OBSTACLE, THE TENSION GROWS...
WHAT KIND OF HAZARDS ARE WE FACING?
WHERE'S THE DANGER?
WHEN DO WE HIT THE TRAPS?
WHO'LL COME THROUGH --AND WHO WILL FALL?
$500,000 IS A LOT OF MONEY--! WORTH ALMOST ANYTHING!
GOT TO WIN! I'VE GOT TO!
SUDDENLY, IT BEGINS!
METAL SHAFTS SPEARING FROM BELOW GROUND-- STRIKING THROUGH OUR ENGINES-- OUR TIRES!
SHHUNK!
SKREE!
SLKRASH!
THE GLEAMING SPIKES SLASH VICIOUSLY, DISEMBOWELING THESE CREATURES OF TECHNOLOGY--! GUTTING THESE WILD STALLIONS OF TEMPERED STEEL--

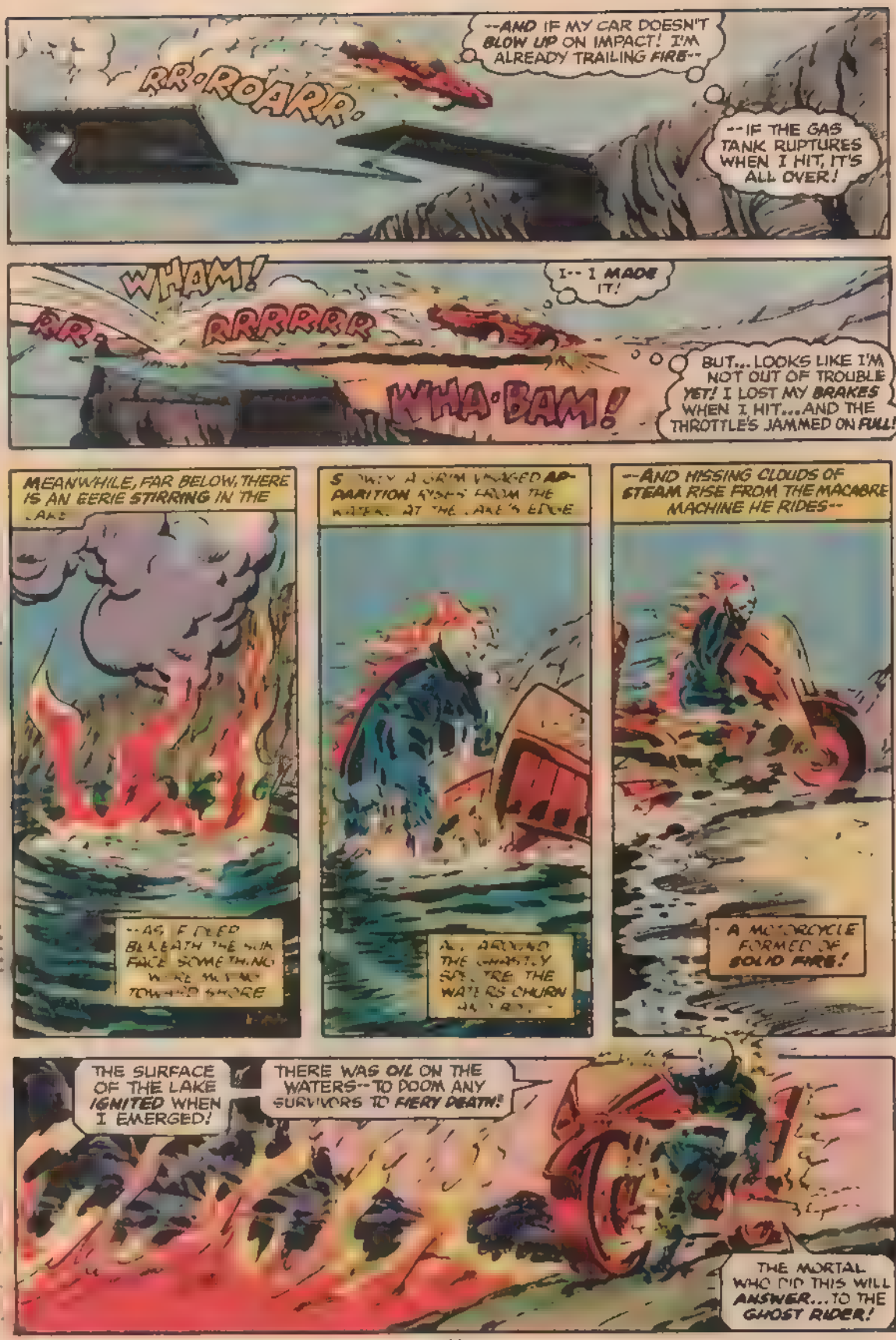
--UNTIL THEY LIE BROKEN, TORN AND TWISTED--OR MERELY CRAWL FORWARD, FLAMES LICKING AT THEIR OPEN WOUNDS!
ONLY TWO VEHICLES SCREAM AHEAD THOUGH ONE TRAILS FIRE IN ITS WAKE
JOHNNY BLAZE
DISASTER--
--AND CAR NUMBER SEVEN DRIVEN BY THE HUMAN ALY!
NUMBER SEVEN AVOIDS THOSE DEADLY SPIKES LIKE A PRO!
WE'RE THE ONLY TWO STILL IN THE RACE!
IF MY GUESS IS GOOD, THAT'S OBSTACLE NUMBER TWO DEAD AHEAD--!
--TWIN RAMPS SPANNING A MAN-MADE LAKE!

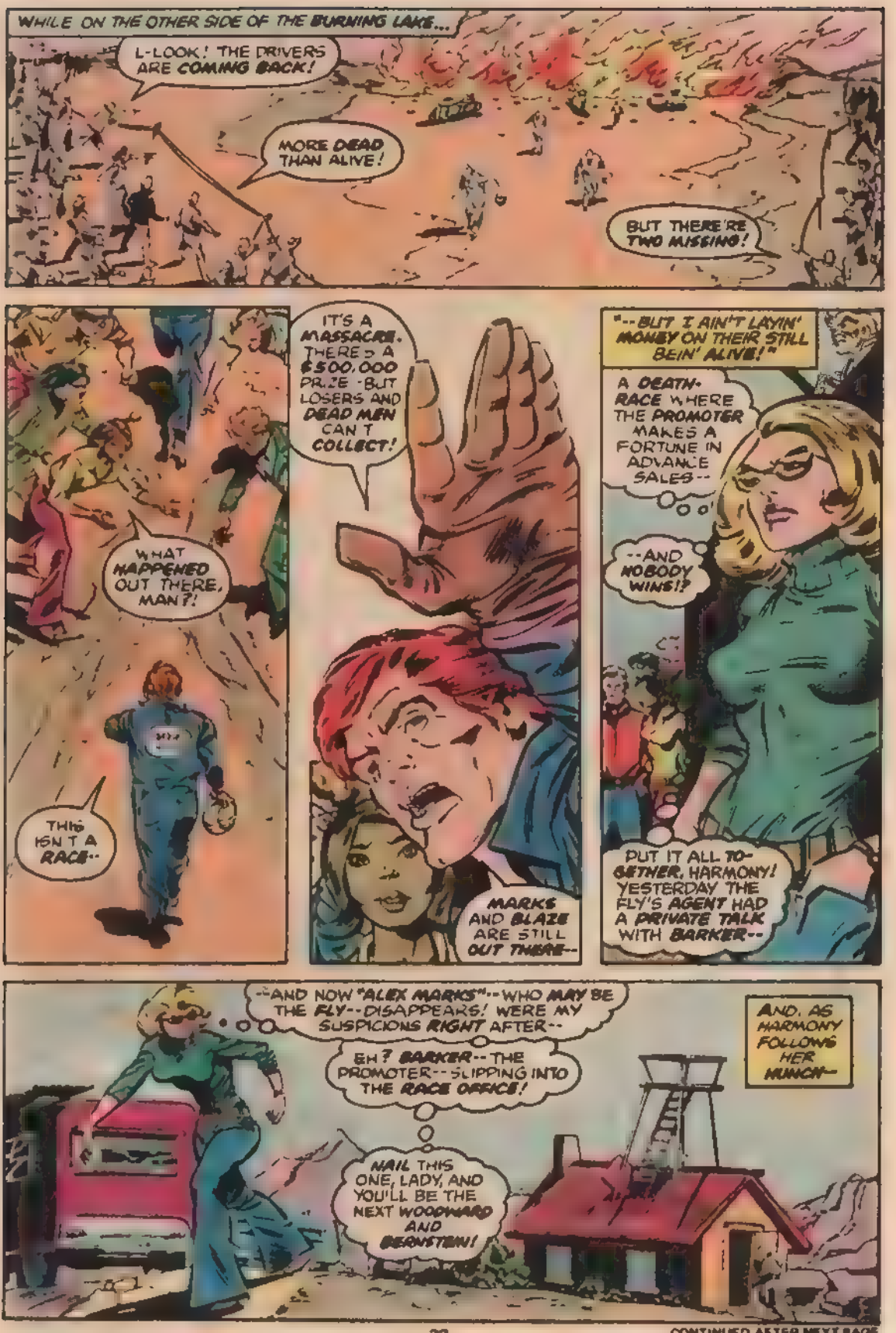


CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

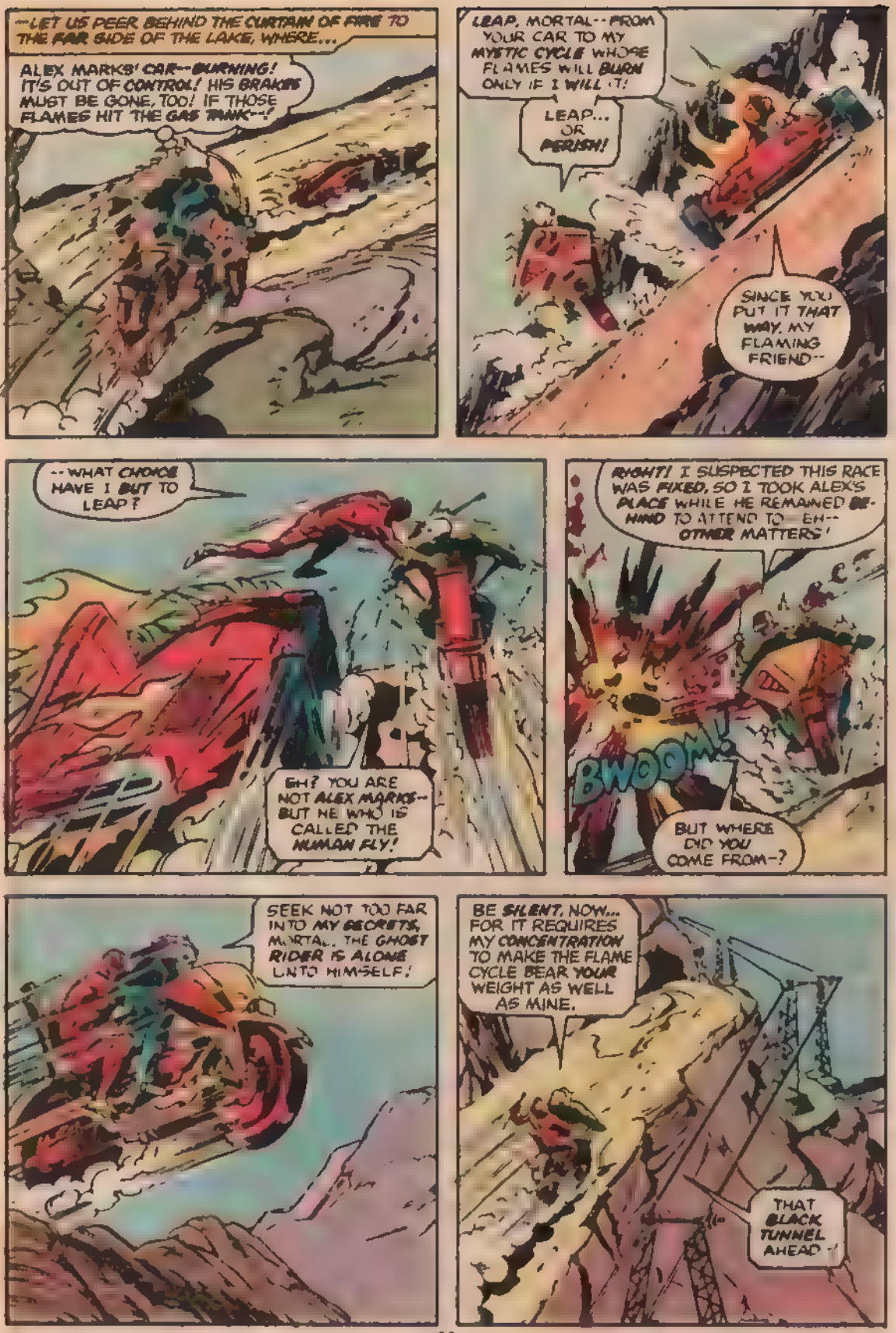

WHILE ON THE SECOND RAMP...
THE RAMP'S PIVOTING BENEATH ME--!
--CHANGING MY COURSE! THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A ONE-WAY RIDE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE!
IF I HIT THE BRAKES I'LL ONLY GO INTO THE DRINK SPINNING SIDEWAYS!
THE WAY OUT OF THIS IS TO CUT MY WHEELS TO THE RIGHT--
--AND GUN IT!!
R-RRRR-ROAR!
NOW...IF ONLY I HAVE THE MOMENTUM TO REACH THE SHORE--

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


--AND IF MY CAR DOESN'T BLOW UP ON IMPACT! I'M ALREADY TRAILING FIRE--
RR-ROARR
--IF THE GAS TANK RUPTURES WHEN I HIT, IT'S ALL OVER!
WHAM!
RRR-
RRRRRR
I-- I MADE IT!
WHA-BAM!
BUT... LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT OUT OF TROUBLE YET! I LOST MY BRAKES WHEN I HIT...AND THE THROTTLE'S JAMMED ON FULL!
MEANWHILE, FAR BELOW, THERE IS AN EERIE STIRRING IN THE
--AS IF DEEP BENEATH THE SURFACE SOMETHING WERE MOVING TOWARD SHORE
--AND HISSING CLOUDS OF STEAM RISE FROM THE MACABRE MACHINE HE RIDES--
A MOTORCYCLE FORMED OF SOLID FIRE!
THE SURFACE OF THE LAKE IGNITED WHEN I EMERGED!
THERE WAS OIL ON THE WATERS--TO DOOM ANY SURVIVORS TO FIERY DEATH!
THE MORTAL WHO DID THIS WILL ANSWER... TO THE GHOST RIDER!

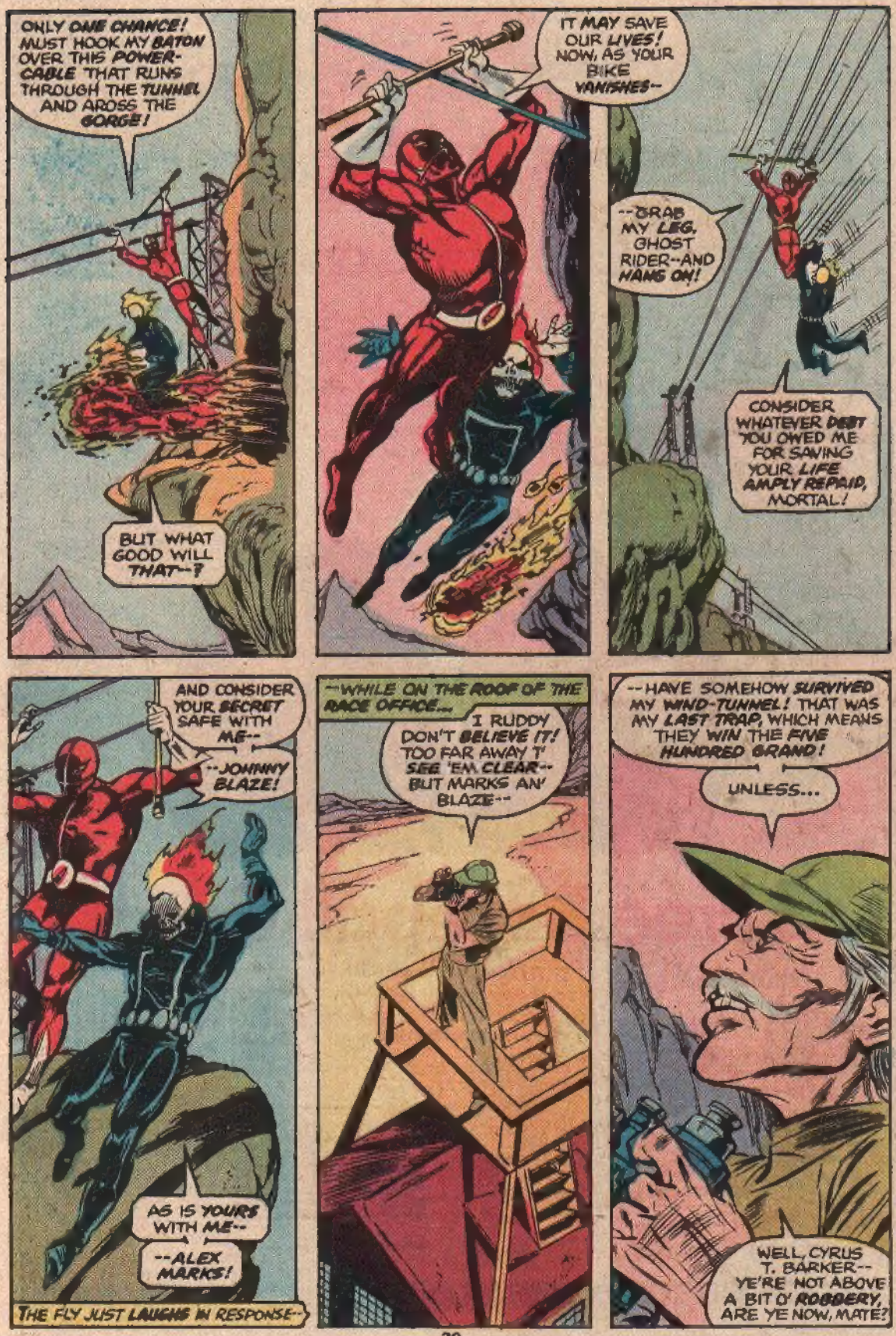

WHILE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BURNING LAKE...
L-LOOK! THE DRIVERS ARE COMING BACK!
MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE!
BUT THERE'RE TWO MISSING!
WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE, MAN?!
THIS ISN'T A RACE--
IT'S A MASSACRE. THERE'S A $500,000 PRIZE - BUT LOSERS AND DEAD MEN CAN'T COLLECT!
MARKS AND BLAZE ARE STILL OUT THERE--
"--BUT I AIN'T LAYIN' MONEY ON THEIR STILL BEIN' ALIVE!"
A DEATH-RACE WHERE THE PROMOTER MAKES A FORTUNE IN ADVANCE SALES--
--AND NOBODY WINS!?
PUT IT ALL TOGETHER, HARMONY! YESTERDAY THE FLY'S AGENT HAD A PRIVATE TALK WITH BARKER--
--AND NOW "ALEX MARKS"--WHO MAY BE THE FLY--DISAPPEARS! WERE MY SUSPICIONS RIGHT AFTER--
EH? BARKER--THE PROMOTER--SLIPPING INTO THE RACE OFFICE!
NAIL THIS ONE, LADY, AND YOU'LL BE THE NEXT WOODWARD AND BERNSTEIN!
AND, AS HARMONY FOLLOWS HER NUMCH--

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


--LET US PEER BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF FIRE TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE LAKE, WHERE...
ALEX MARKS' CAR--BURNING! IT'S OUT OF CONTROL! HIS BRAKES MUST BE GONE, TOO! IF THOSE FLAMES HIT THE GAS TANK--!
LEAP, MORTAL--FROM YOUR CAR TO MY MYSTIC CYCLE WHOSE FLAMES WILL BURN ONLY IF I WILL IT!
LEAP... OR PERISH!
SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, MY FLAMING FRIEND--
--WHAT CHOICE HAVE I BUT TO LEAP?
EH? YOU ARE NOT ALEX MARKS--BUT HE WHO IS CALLED THE HUMAN FLY!
RIGHT! I SUSPECTED THIS RACE WAS FIXED, SO I TOOK ALEX'S PLACE WHILE HE REMAINED BEHIND TO ATTEND TO--EH--OTHER MATTERS!
BWOOM!
BUT WHERE DID YOU COME FROM-?
SEEK NOT TOO FAR INTO MY SECRETS, MORTAL. THE GHOST RIDER IS ALONE UNTO HIMSELF!
BE SILENT, NOW... FOR IT REQUIRES MY CONCENTRATION TO MAKE THE FLAME CYCLE BEAR YOUR WEIGHT AS WELL AS MINE.
THAT BLACK TUNNEL AHEAD--!

WHAM!
WHAT--? THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE HAS BEEN SEALED BEHIND US!
NO MATTER WHAT LIES AHEAD--WE CAN'T GO BACK THE WAY WE CAME!
NOT WITH A SLAB OF STONE BLOCKING THE--
WHAT IS THAT NOISE?
RRRRRRRR
THERE'S...A HUGE FAN ON THE INSIDE OF THAT DOOR!
IT'S TURNING THIS PASSAGE INTO A CRUDE WIND TUNNEL!
AND EVEN THE FULL POWER OF MY MYSTIC MOTORCYCLE CANNOT PULL US FREE FROM ITS TORNADO-LIKE VORTEX!
WE'RE BEING PROPELLED FORWARD--OUT OF THE TUNNEL--
--AND OVER THE EDGE OF A PRECIPICE!
I--I CANNOT MAINTAIN THE FLAME CYCLE ANY LONGER AGAINST OUR COMBINED WEIGHT!
IT IS BEGINNING TO DISSIPATE BENEATH US!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


ONLY ONE CHANCE! MUST HOOK MY BATON OVER THIS POWER-CABLE THAT RUNS THROUGH THE TUNNEL AND ACROSS THE GORGE!
BUT WHAT GOOD WILL THAT--?
IT MAY SAVE OUR LIVES! NOW, AS YOUR BIKE VANISHES--
--GRAB MY LEG, GHOST RIDER--AND HANG ON!
CONSIDER WHATEVER DEBT YOU OWED ME FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE AMPLY REPAID, MORTAL!
AND CONSIDER YOUR SECRET SAFE WITH ME--
--JOHNNY BLAZE!
AS IS YOURS WITH ME--
--ALEX MARKS!
THE FLY JUST LAUGHS IN RESPONSE--
--WHILE ON THE ROOF OF THE RACE OFFICE...
I RUDDY DON'T BELIEVE IT! TOO FAR AWAY T' SEE 'EM CLEAR-- BUT MARKS AN' BLAZE--
--HAVE SOMEHOW SURVIVED MY WIND-TUNNEL! THAT WAS MY LAST TRAP, WHICH MEANS THEY WIN THE FIVE HUNDRED GRAND!
UNLESS...
WELL, CYRUS T. BARKER-- YE'RE NOT ABOVE A BIT O' ROBBERY, ARE YE NOW, MATE?

THUS, MERE MOMENTS LATER...
'TIS A GOOD $700,000 THIS RACE HAS CULLED!
A NICE ROUND NUMBER--ONE I NEVER PLANNED ON SPLITTIN'!
GOING SOMEWHERE, BARKER?
WHO IN--? ALEX MARKS! BUT YOU CAN'T BE BACK--!
SURE I CAN--
--SINCE I NEVER LEFT! THE FLY TOOK MY PLACE SO I COULD KEEP AN EYE ON YOU--
--THE PROMOTER OF ANOTHER RACE I WAS IN! THE ONE THAT COST ME MY NERVE--
--AND NEARLY MY LIFE!
I ALWAYS SUSPECTED YOU RIGGED MY CAR THEN, AND NOW I--
ALEX--LOOK OUT! HE'S GOT A GUN!
EH? THE LADY SNOOP! YOU'RE NEXT, BLONDIE, AFTER--
WOK!
SUDDENLY INSTINCT PROPELS ALEX MARKS! INSTINCT THAT EXISTED BEFORE HE LOST HIS NERVE...
...INSTINCT PRIMED BY ANGER AND CONCERN TO OVERWHELM FEAR AND BURST FORTH AGAIN!
AND, SOME HOURS LATER...
ALEX, YOU AND JOHNNY ARE BOTH WINNERS! THE PRIZE MONEY IS YOURS!
WE'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO GIVE IT TO CHARITY, FLY--IN YOUR NAME!
SURE! I CAN AFFORD IT...'CAUSE I'M SURE I'LL BE DRIVING AGAIN!
SO ALEX ISN'T THE FLY! WELL, THERE ARE STILL FOUR OTHER SUSPECTS ON MY LIST!
THAT LIST WILL HAVE TO WAIT BECAUSE NEXT ISH THE FLY SCALES A MILE-HIGH MOUNTAIN TO FREE A YOUNG GIRL FROM...
FORTRESS IN THE SKY!

MARVEL® BULLPEN BULLETINS

ARCHIE GOODWIN, Editor • *JIM SHOOTER*, Associate Editor • *ROGER SLIFER, ROGER STERN, ED HANNIGAN, RALPH MACCHIO*, Assistant Editors • *ROY THOMAS, LEN WEIN, MARV WOLFMAN, STEVE GERBER, JACK KIRBY*, Consulting Editors • *JOHN ROMITA, MARIE SEVERIN*, Art Directors • *JOHN VERPOORTEN*, Production Manager • *IRVING FORBUSH*, Staff Psychotic

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

This is it, gang! It's the month that the long-awaited KISS Magazine goes on sale! For the ridiculous price of $1.50 you get a 64-page, glossy paper, magazine-sized masterpiece, featuring a simply incredible 40-page, full-color, super-hero comic strip starring KISS! Yes, KISS—the most unlikely, unusual, unexpected team of super-heroes since Doc Ock tried to elope with Aunt May! Can you picture KISS fighting Doctor Doom? Well, believe it! Also, you'll find phantasmagoric photos and frankly fabulous features—plus, an actual, on-the-spot, illustrated account of KISS giving their own blood for this once-in-a-lifetime issue! And that's all I'm gonna say about it now, 'cause you know how I hate to be a huckster! And, speaking of Hanna-Barbera (which we weren't!), here's super-sensational announcement #2! For those of you who still turn on to THE FLINTSTONES, SCOOBY-DOO, YOGI BEAR, DYNAMUTT, and all the rest of their merry menage, mighty Marvel will leave you in a cultural wasteland no longer. We've just teamed up with the talented titans at H-B to bring you Scooby and the Flintstones this month, with Yogi and the Dynamutt doggie comin' atcha next month! We figure if your batty Bullpen is gonna take over the comic book world, we might as well go all the way! Anyhow, we've got some big, secret projects with Hanna-Barbera in the months to come, so you might as well climb aboard now, while there's still room! Wow! From Spidey to Scooby-Doo! Who says Marvel isn't where it's all happening! And now, one last reminder from yours truly (who's beginning to feel like a carnival pitchman!)—better start savin' your shekels, sagacious one, 'cause volume #4 of the omnipresent Origins Series goes on sale this fall, and it'll probably be the biggest blockbuster of 'em all! It's called THE SUPERHERO WOMEN, and—if you play your cards right and don't kick a down-hearted duck—I'll tell you a bit about the contents in the next Soapbox or two. So, until we meet again, be good to each other and wherever you go, whatever you do, fight brain strain—keep thinking Marvel!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! July may be the traditional time for firecrackers, but there's another kind of explosion about to hit full-force this month. And if your built-in combellism detector is starting to blip like crazy, that's because you're *right*. . . we *are* about to mention that Marvel Explosion we're always talking about here and in our ads. But, truth to tell, explosion is about the only way to describe all the zillion and one things we're sending your way this mid-summer season, over and above the items Stan has already covered in the Soapbox. Just for starters, let us clue you to the fact that the MARVEL SUPER-HEROES FUN BOOK #2 should already be on the shelves of your friendly neighborhood book emporium just waiting for you puzzle, maze, and word game fans (and if you're *not*, these fun books could well *change* that) to stretch your skills as well as your knowledge of Marvel lore by trying them out.

ITEM! Then there's the big doings in our black-and-white magazine department, namely all kinds of excitement over the latest issue of MARVEL PREVIEW. This one will reintroduce you to STAR-LORD, the cosmic crusader who first appeared in the pages of PREVIEW #4. Ever since his dazzling debut, we've been hounded with requests to let Star-Lord soar the spaceways once again. So, editor JOHN WARNER recruited the popular writer/artist team of CLAREMONT and BYRNE (Chris and John to most MARVEL TEAM-UP and IRON FIST fans) to do just that. What we expected was the normally sensational job we expect on *any* of our books; what we got—aided, abetted, and amplified by the dramatically detailed inking of Terrific TERRY AUSTIN—was fifty-two pages of mind-stunning science-fiction adventure that had even the most jaded of Bullpenners lining up to glimpse each new batch of completed pages as they were delivered. Okay, if you praise a thing *too* much, it creates expectations that can never be lived up to. So, in our typical low-key manner, we'll merely suggest that if you only buy *one* large-size format comic this year, better make it MARVEL PREVIEW featuring STAR-LORD, or you'll be kicking yourself the rest of your life! There. Who says we can't be subtle?

ITEM! Talking about the black-and-white magazines, let's extend congratulations to ROGER SLIFER on becoming the new editor of the line, replacing JOHN WARNER, who'll be returning to freelance writing (such as the BLOODSTONE feature now backing up THE RAMPAGING HULK). Roger is bright-eyed and eager, and has a whole drawerful of projects he'll soon be bringing your way. In fact, in view of some of the future projects Roger will be in charge of, as well as some of the items he's handling currently—like the full-color MARVEL CLASSICS and special movie projects such as ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU and THE DEEP—black-and-white editor is pretty much a misnomer. At the moment we don't really have a better or more accurate title (Special Format Editor comes close but somehow lacks the subtle *joie de vivre* we're always seeking), but as soon as we do, we'll hit you with it. Meantime, get ready to be hit with a lot of way-out wonderment from Mr. Slifer, his assistant editor Reliable RALPH MACCHIO, and the whole blamed black-and-whi—et—well—their whole creative crew!

ITEM! If science-fiction is in the works this month in our black-and-white try-out mag, MARVEL PREVIEW, our *color* experimental book, MARVEL PREMIERE, is covering the other side of the coin, namely fantasy. We're presenting WEIRDWORLD, an excursion into the realm of wizards, elves, and mystic monsters conducted by Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, Maniacal MIKE PLOOG, and Active ALEX NINO. If you've thrilled to Tolkien's THE HOBBIT or LORD OF THE RINGS, we've got a hunch this is going to be just what you've been waiting for. In fact, with enough sales and letter encouragement, we just might be able to convince the powers-that-be that *now* is the time for a regular epic fantasy comic!

ITEM! Summer is approaching its peak, and so too is our production of King-size Annuals. This time around we've got TARZAN, THOR, THE ETERNALS, and JOHN CARTER, WAR-LORD OF MARS making their appearances in all-new, bonus-size adventures, as well as THE INVADERS and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. If that's not enough, two MARVEL CLASSICS are also ready for your edification and enjoyment: H.G. Wells' THE INVISIBLE MAN and Homer's ILIAD. And coming up in August will be Annuals of THE AVENGERS, THE INCREDIBLE HULK, and THE FANTASTIC FOUR, plus the aforementioned Marvel Movie Special, THE DEEP (But more details about that *next* month). Meantime, remember—never tickle a temperamental toad!